

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

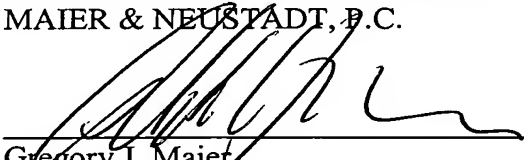
Claims 5-15 are presently active in this application, Claims 1-4 having been canceled, Claims 5-9 having been amended, and Claims 10-15 having been newly added by way of the present Preliminary Amendment.

Claims 5-9 have been amended to clarify the subject matters recited therein and remove any multiple dependencies, and Claims 10-15 have been newly added based on original Claims 7-9. Hence, no new matter is believed to be added.

Examination on the merits of Claims 5-15 and an early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)

Akihiro Yamazaki  
Registration No. 46,155

GJM/AY/YO:mda  
I:\ATTY\YO\24s\244797\PRE AME-DRAFT.DOC